



Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

8 April 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

US administration imposition of global reciprocal tariffs: Implications for the Windsor Framework and Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee, which I chair, is concerned about the potential effect of the United States administration's global reciprocal tariffs on Northern Ireland and on the operation of the Windsor Framework.

It would greatly facilitate Parliamentary scrutiny of this issue if you could share with the Committee the Government's initial assessment of the effects of recent developments on Northern Ireland given, at the time of writing, the different tariff rates applied to the UK (10%) and to the European Union (20%).

As this is a rapidly evolving situation, the Committee would be grateful, too, if you could also set out the Government's initial assessment of the impact on Northern Ireland of a range of possible scenarios. These include:

- i. if the EU decides to respond with tariffs of its own on imports from the US and the UK does not;
- ii. if the UK responds with tariffs on US imports but the EU does not;
- iii. if both the EU and the UK respond with tariffs of US imports but a) at different levels or b) with tariffs on different goods.

The Committee would also be interested to know how you intend to keep Parliament updated as this situation develops.

We look forward to considering your response when the House returns after Easter recess.

I am copying this letter to The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC,
Chair, Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee